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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 22 November 1955

SUBJECT Uranium-Ore Mining in the Kreis (Schmiedeberg) Area

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1. After establishment of the Polish occupation of the country in 1945, rumors indicated that uranium ore had been found in the Arnsberg area. Small-scale explorations went without result. Only at the Kopalnia Wolnosci mine, activities were intensified. In 1951, a general survey of the country was conducted by the Soviets. Soil samples were extracted by drilling operations and measuring instruments were used. This survey also covered the adjacent Kreis Dittersbach. Search for uranium ore continued at the Kopalnia Wolnosci and at other new shafts as well as at the old silver mine. uranium-ore extraction was given first priority by the Soviets, iron ore was turned over as a by-product to the Poles. 25X1

2. All mining work was done by Polish workers. The management of the mines was also administered by Poles. The directorate and supervision of the uranium-ore mining activities was in Soviet hands. The directorate was located in Hohenwies some 2.5 kilometers northeast of Schmiedeberg. The headquarters was believed to be located in Hirschberg. 25X1

3. Uranium ore was shipped on canvas-covered two-axle trucks with dual tires and without trailer on the Arnsberg - Schmiedeberg highway and went in the direction to Hirschberg. The final place of destination of these shipments could not be determined.

4. Shipments of uranium-ore smamples on open trucks were also observed. These shipments consisted of sheet-metal boxes 30 cm.across and approximately 40 to 50 cm.high standing closely packed beside each other on trucks.

5. An estimated 25 trucks loaded with uranium ore passed on the road daily. The number of trucks loaded with ore samples could not be determined. According to uncorroborated statements by Polish miners, the Schmiedeberg uranium-ore deposits are abundent in high-grade ore. No details regarding the output of the mines were available. It is also not known whether or not the ore was processed within the restricted area. The Dittersbach area was also explored for uranium ore and a new shaft was sunk. This area was equipped with a uranium-ore washing plant in 1948 or 1949. This new shaft has been abandoned and the washing plant has been dismantled. No information regarding similar installations in the restricted area south of Arnsberg is available.

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